REMARKS

By this preliminary amendment, original claims 1-10 have been amended and new claims 11-20 have been added to place the application in better condition for examination and allowance. Entry of this preliminary amendment and issuance of a first action on the merits are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

RATNER & PRESTIA

Kevin R. Casey, Reg. No/32,117

Attorney for Applicants

KRC/kak

Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Dated: February 8, 2002

Suite 301 One Westlakes, Berwyn P.O. Box 980 Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980 (610) 407-0700

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

EXPRESS MAIL

Mailing Label Number:

EV050915908

Date of Deposit:

February 8, 2002

I hereby certify that this paper and fee are being deposited, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 and with sufficient postage, using the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above and that the deposit is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Kathleen C. Labby